

of Crystal Falls, Michigan for decades of devoted and effective service to his community.

Jerry is one of those people who saw the light and migrated up to Iron County in 1983, after making his mark near Flint through years of hard work as a political organizer and Democratic campaign worker. He was chairman of the Political Action Committee of the United Autoworkers Local 651 in Flint at AC Delco. He also served during this time as alternate committeeman, district committeeman and shop committeeman for Local 651.

Jerry served the DORT Federal Credit Union at AC Delco as a member of its board of directors, as chairman of the credit committee and as chairman of its building committee.

In 1960, Jerry was actively involved in John F. Kennedy's campaign for President in Genesee County and helped organize an extremely successful Democratic rally for JFK at the Atwood Stadium in Flint.

Aside from his union contributions, in the early 1960's Jerry organized the Vienna Township Democratic Club in the Flint area. His guidance of its grass roots activities resulted in the defeat of all but one of the long-standing Republican office holders in Vienna Township.

In the early 1980's, when Jerry learned that The Landing supper club in Crystal Falls, Michigan was for sale, he bought it and began his journey to becoming a respected businessman and fixture in Iron County community life. Jerry hosted many receptions for candidates and dinners for the Iron County Democratic Party at The Landing over the years until he sold the restaurant in December, 2000.

It was also during this time that Jerry met his lovely wife, Shelly, who is a happy part of his life today.

After coming to Iron County, Jerry eventually embarked on a campaign of his own and was elected to the Iron County Board of Commissioners. He served with distinction from 1990 through 1992, acting as vice chairman of the board and chair of its law enforcement committee.

During his tenure as a County Commissioner, Jerry served a number of community organizations, including the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department, the Iron County Department of Social Services, the Iron County Community Hospital and the Iron County Rodeo Committee.

He has also been president of the Iron County Trailblazers and actively participated in its snowmobile trail work. Jerry has been a member of the Iron County Fair Board, the Stambaugh Township Compensation Committee and the Executive Board of the Iron County Democratic Party.

Lower Michigan's loss has been northern Michigan's gain, and it is clear that Jerry Losey has become a vital and valued part of the Iron County community. He is a true example of dedication and service, which was recognized by his selection as the Burr Sherwood Vintage Democrat of 2003 by the Iron County Democratic Party. I am happy to join in the applause and congratulations for Gerald Losey in recognition of his lifetime of service to his fellow Michiganians.

## HONORING RODERICK MACKINNON ON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2003 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 20, 2003*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Roderick MacKinnon on his receipt of the 2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his research on the biophysics of cells, which revealed the intricate process of electrical signaling in human beings and other living organisms. Dr. MacKinnon conducted much of this research at the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory, a federal scientific research institution that is located within the First Congressional District of New York. His work has the potential to enhance the lives of millions, as it has contributed to a deeper understanding of such diseases as cystic fibrosis and heart arrhythmias, which will likely lead to more effective ways of treating these devastating illnesses.

Dr. MacKinnon's research focused on the study of ion channels, the pores through which vital materials—potassium, chloride, calcium and sodium ions—enter or leave the cells of the body. In 1998, Dr. MacKinnon was the first to determine the structure of an ion channel and, through a process called crystallography, produced exceptionally detailed portraits of the potassium ion structure. These high resolution "snapshots" not only revealed the basic structure of an ion channel, but also the process by which ions are expelled or admitted by cells. This process, electrical signaling, involves the rapid fire opening and closing of the channels to release ions and move electrical impulses from the brain in a wave to their destination in the body. Dr. MacKinnon's research determined the specific conditions that control whether ion channels are opened or closed, a process that puzzled researchers for over 50 years.

The discoveries made through Dr. MacKinnon's work offers researchers a renewed potential for understanding and curing illnesses derived from defective ion channels. Such diseases, many of which affect the kidneys, heart, muscles, and nervous system, cause ion channels to interfere with proper electrical signaling and can be fatal. Dr. MacKinnon's findings have refined the medical community's understanding of how ion channels slam shut or remain open and other critical bodily functions. This discovery offers important insight into the future development of drugs to control channels more precisely, and can potentially save human lives.

Dr. MacKinnon received a B.A. degree in biochemistry from Brandeis University in 1978 and an M.D. from Tufts University in 1982. He has served as a full faculty member at Harvard Medical School, professor and head of Laboratory Molecular Neurobiology and Biophysics at The Rockefeller University, and was appointed an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In recognition of his work on ion channel structure and function, Dr. MacKinnon received the 1999 Lasker Award, the 2000 Rosenstiel Award, and the 2001 Gairdner Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Roderick MacKinnon on his important ac-

complishments in the field of biophysics, and his receipt of the 2003 Nobel prize in Chemistry. Dr. MacKinnon's work represents a significant contribution to medical research, and offers great potential to finding cures to many of the world's most devastating diseases. I am very proud that Dr. MacKinnon is associated with Brookhaven National Laboratory, an institution that has produced five Nobel Prize recipients since its founding, and I applaud him for his many contributions to science and the medical profession.

## HONORING DEACON WALTER GRAY

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 20, 2003*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deacon Walter Gray, affectionately known as Walter, a constituent of mine from the Norris-High Hill community in Scott County, Mississippi, who died on September 13, 2003. Walter was 81 years of age, and a World War 11 veteran.

Walter was born and raised in Scott County, and before adulthood was an active leader in his community. God, Family, and Friends, in that order, were his priorities. He instilled these priorities in his family and community. He was a trustee and the treasurer of the Green Grove United Methodist Church, and was thoroughly respected by church members and parishioners. He set a peerless example in the way he conducted his own life.

Aside from his church, and being an employee of Forest County, Walter loved basketball and particularly enjoyed cheering his grandson, Greg Carter, playing for the Forest High School Bearcats and the Mississippi State Bulldogs. When either of these two teams were playing during Greg's time as a player, you could always count on Walter's presence. One of the highlights of his life was seeing Greg attain a basketball scholarship at Mississippi State University, graduating and being named to the All SEC Team. Because he loved to talk about his church, his grandchildren, basketball, and Mississippi State University, anyone could always generate a good conversation with Walter.

In his funeral eulogy his pastor found it difficult to find enough adjectives to describe the high esteem the community held for Walter, and how sorely he was going to be missed by his family, friends, his county, and Mississippi. He stood, as a stout oak, as mentor and role model for his children Lenal, James, Bobbye Carter, Lois Briskey and eleven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, and countless other young people of his church family. What a legacy for Mississippi!

Perhaps, the most soulful words of all voiced about Deacon Walter Gray were those written by Nancy, his wife and helpmate of 64 years:

A golden heart stopped beating.  
Hard-working hands at rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best.

Mr. Speaker, Deacon Walter Gray truly represents the best of Mississippi. I ask Congress join me in remembering him and recognizing his life now that he has gone on to be with his Heavenly Father.